

Girls go wild

Girl Scouts sponsor imagination program

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Fort Riley Post

Softball nears season-end

Maintenance Co. defeats Infantry in company-level play.

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Friday, July 29, 2005

America's Warfighting Center

Vol. 48, No. 30

Around The Army

Fort Leavenworth:

The Leavenworth Lamp reported July 21 that 65 Soldiers from the U.S. Virgin Islands received military corrections training at the U.S. Disciplinary Barracks the past two weeks. They worked alongside corrections specialists from the 705th Military Police Battalion.

The 661st Military Police Company, U.S. Virgin Islands National Guard, came to Fort Leavenworth for annual training July 9. Since its arrival, the company has received a series of classes as well as taken shifts behind the walls to gain exposure to procedure and military prisoners.

For more on this story and other Fort Leavenworth news, visit www.fleavenworthlamp.com/ on the Web.

Fort Stewart:

The Frontline reported July 28 that the last active duty water battalion was deactivated. Soldiers of the 559th Quartermaster Battalion bid farewell in a somber and historical inactivation ceremony.

The battalion is the last water purification battalion to go the U.S. Army Reserves, 1st Sgt. Frank McNeill, the battalion's water treatment noncommissioned officer in charge.

For more on this story and other Fort Stewart news, visit www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?brd=1390

Germany:

The European Stars and Stripes reported July 27 that the Army and Air Force will consolidate primary and pediatric medical care at Ramstein Air Base next year, allowing Landstuhl Regional Medical Center to focus on specialty care.

The move will improve medical services and make it simpler for patients, said Air Force Col. Todd Hess, the hospital's medical director. The plan is part of a broader Defense Department initiative to merge medical care among the service branches and make military hospitals more "joint" across the globe.

For more on this and other U.S. Military news in the European and Pacific theaters, visit www.esrptimes.com on the Web.

Fort Rucker:

The Army Flier reported July 21 that Fort Rucker played host to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, or FEMA, while they assisted communities in Pensacola, Fla., that were affected by hurricane Dennis.

FEMA contacted Fort Rucker July 9, just hours after Hurricane Dennis made landfall in Pensacola, Fla., to request the use of Fort Rucker as a staging area during FEMA's efforts to support disaster services in affected disaster counties.

For more on this story and other Fort Rucker news, visit www.armyflyer.com/ on the Web.

Post names Soldier, NCO of Year

By April Blackmon
Senior staff writer

Fort Riley recently named its 2005 Soldier and NCO of the Year. Spc. Jacob Mosher, Medical Department Activity was named Soldier of the Year, while Sgt. Mark Vallem, 331st Signal Company, was chosen as NCO of the Year. To win Soldier and NCO of the Year honors, a board evaluates a Soldier's general knowledge on



Spc. Jacob Mosher

Army subjects — subjects such as first aid, leadership, counseling, and how the Soldier presents himself in front of the NCO of the Year.

Mosher said he did a lot of studying for the boards, but added this time was a bit more difficult to



Sgt. Mark Vallem

know what specifically to study for. "Every other board I've been too, they give you a MOI, which says, 'Ok, there are 12 subjects. We're going to be asking

you, say, three, five questions from each subject.' With this board, I was notified three days before it happened and they just said 'come ready,'" Mosher said.

While Vallem did some studying for the board as well, most of his preparation was based on experience, he said. Vallem said he still remembered what he had to do for the 2003 Soldier of Year board he

See Top Soldiers, Page 3

All clear



From left: Spc. Richard McNulty, Sgt. Joshua Hamilton and Spc. Chris Gumty of the 1st Squad, 3rd Plt., 977th MP Co., help secure a room at the mini-MOUT site during training July 21.

MPs practice urban operations

By April Blackmon
Senior staff writer

Triple-digit temperatures didn't stop members of the 977th Military Police Battalion from accomplishing their training mission July 21.

"It was hot; blood's flowing," said Pfc. Bryan Hafford of the 1st Squad, 3rd Platoon, 977th MP Bn. "We're just trying to adjust."

Sweat-drenched and worn-down from the excessive heat and long training hours, the Soldiers practiced their room entering and clearing techniques at Fort Riley's mini-Military Operations in Urbanized Training, or MOUT, site. This "cordon and search" lane was one of three lanes the MPs went through during two weeks of field training.

"I think a lot of the Soldiers are excited about the cordon and search. It's one of the

best missions I think we could train on for MOUT operations," said 1st Lt. Louisa Jones, 2nd Platoon leader for the 977th MP Co. "Once you get on the objective after you do all your rehearsals, and planning and then get over to the mini-MOUT site and kick some butt ... I think that's the best part of it."

Before knocking down doors, detaining insurgents and securing a building, the MPs went through several levels of training.

A miniature model of the town was drawn in the dirt and the Soldiers were briefed on their mission. Building areas were then designated with engineer tape on the prairie, where Soldiers focused on their movements. Next, they drove over to the mini-MOUT site to practice dry-runs through the buildings before full runs with insurgents and blank rounds.

In between runs, the Soldiers took a break and discussed what went well and

See MPs, Page 12



Squad members move toward a second building after clearing the first one during training exercises.

Community remembers Hartley

By Stephanie Perrin
Staff writer

Family, friends and comrades gathered July 21 at Morris Hill Chapel to honor the life and mourn the loss of Spc. Jared Hartley.

Comrades at Fort Riley praised Hartley's hard work, dedication and mechanics' knowledge.

"During Hartley's first NTC rotation, we were seen by a two-star general and were presented with coins," Susan Leirmoe, Hart-

ley's former non-commissioned officer-in-charge said. "As we were dismissed, Hartley said to me, 'Well we better get back to work' as he put the coin in his pocket and barely looked at it. He had no idea how hard he had already worked as a PFC to have gained that kind of recognition. Once again, I was so impressed with his humility and pride in wanting to do his job."

In his tribute, LT. Col. John Hinkley recalled a time during Hartley's second tour of Iraq. A special platoon was created for

personnel security. He described how Hartley volunteered for the platoon and succeeded in "talking" his way into the platoon. Through Hartley's expert skills with the weapons, maturity and his decision making capabilities, Hartley quickly became the platoon's lead gunner, Hinkley said. Spc. Hartley enlisted in the Army in June 2002. He was assigned to Fort Riley, Kan. and Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 125th Forward Support Battalion since November 2002.

Hartley first deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in April 2003 and the second time in February 2005.

"When he learned he was going back to Iraq, I asked him how he was doing. In his face I didn't see that young scared look. I saw that he had become a man, a man who knew what his purpose was, a man who was confident and had come into his own," Leirmoe said.

"I recognized in Hartley's face a man who was prepared to serve his country, again, with great pride and that is exactly what he did."



A photo of Spc. Jared Hartley and flowers surround his kevlars, boots and rifle.

Post news in brief

Toastmasters slate meeting

The next Old Bill's Toastmasters meeting is scheduled from 5:30-6:30 p.m., Aug. 18, in the Rally Point conference room. Meetings are free and open to the general public.

For more information, call Jim Hill at 761-1130.

Sirens tested daily on post

Beginning Aug. 1, the Fort Riley Operations Center will begin testing the tornado early warning siren system everyday following the noon mess call bugle.

Exceptions will be weekends and holidays when the FROC will run the silent test that is currently used.

Center offers resume class

The three-hour Army Resume Builder class offered by the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center has proven to be very popular. Those interested in improving their knowledge of the Army's Resume Builder and improving their Army resume can sign up for the class by calling the CPAC at 239-6004 or by visiting Building 319 during regular business hours. The next class is scheduled from 9 a.m. to noon on Aug. 19.

IACH changes shots policy

In accordance with federal laws and hospital accreditation organizations, Irwin Army Community Hospital requires its pharmacists to review medications for duplication, appropriate use, contraindications, drug interactions, etc., before administration of Depo Provera and Vitamin B-12 (cyanocobalamin) shots.

Effective immediately patients are required to obtain their Depo-Provera and Vitamin B-12 shots from Outpatient Pharmacy and take the medication to the Immunization or OB/GYN Clinic for the shot to be administered. This ensures all safety steps have been taken by provider, pharmacist and nurse before administration.

This ensures that no patient inadvertently receives a medication that is no longer indicated due to a variety of individual patient scenarios.

PRAIRIE HAWK CYCLE & LEATHER,
1 x 1.5"
Black Only
1X1.5 PrairieHawk 7/8 4605

THE EYE DOCTORS
3 x 5.5"
Black Only
3x5.5 The Eye Doctor

Army unveils active component BCTs

1st Infantry Division to return to Fort Riley in fiscal year 2006

DoD News

The Department of the Army announced today the locations for the active component modular brigade combat teams.

The modular design and their stationing are both critical to ensure the Army is properly postured to maintain the high degree of readiness needed to meet its strategic commitments, including ongoing operations globally in the war on terror.

Today's announcement provided additional detail to decisions that were factored in to the Defense Department base realignment and closure recommendations revealed in May 2005.

The decisions implementing the Defense Department's Integrated Global Presence and Basing Strategy (IGPBS) recommendations allow the Army to return up to 50,000 soldiers from overseas locations by the end of the decade.

This stationing of brigade combat teams (BCTs) allows the Army to continue its transformation to a campaign-quality force with joint and expeditionary capabilities that

meet the future demands of the combatant commanders. The secretary of defense approved an increase in the number of active modular BCTs from 33 to 43 on Jan. 30, 2004.

"The Army Modular Force Initiative is the Army's most important transformational initiative for a reason," it involves the total redesign of the Operational Army into a standardized, stand alone, larger, more powerful, more flexible and more rapidly deployable force that will enable the Army to change the way it fights and the way it operates," said Francis J. Harvey, secretary of the Army.

Two key recommendations of the global force presence realignment decisions include the return of the 1st Infantry Division to Fort Riley, and the relocation of the 1st Armored Division to Fort Bliss, Texas. The 1st Inf. Div. will return in fiscal 2006 and the timing for the return of the 1st Armored Div. is under review.

The Army selected locations for modular brigade combat teams based on existing and potential capacities, available training

space, and current locations of similar and supporting units. The Army preserves its historic heraldry and lineage in this design. While the modular brigade combat teams follow historic division and brigade unit naming conventions, these units are of a completely different design than their predecessors. The essence of this transformational design is a new force that can be deployed singularly or in groups - ready for employment in a variety of designs as self-contained modules over a dispersed area.

The Army modular force initiative involves the total redesign of the operational Army into a larger - more powerful - more flexible and more rapidly deployable force and moves us away from a division-centric structure to one built around the Army's new modular combat team.

The Army is committed to minimizing the turbulence for soldiers and families. "Providing for our soldiers and their families throughout this process remains foremost in our planning," Harvey said.

Active Brigade Combat Teams

Posture:

Fort Riley, Kan. - 3 Brigade Combat Teams
Fort Benning, Ga. - 1 Brigade Combat Team
Fort Bliss, Texas - 4 Brigade Combat Teams
Fort Bragg, N.C. - 4 Brigade Combat Teams
Fort Campbell, Ky. - 4 Brigade Combat Teams
Fort Carson, Colo. - 4 Brigade Combat Teams
Fort Drum, N.Y. - 3 Brigade Combat Teams
Fort Hood, Texas - 5 Brigade Combat Teams
Fort Knox, Ky. - 1 Brigade Combat Team
Fort Lewis, Wash. - 3 Brigade Combat Teams (Stryker)
Fort Polk, La. - 1 Brigade Combat Team
Fort Richardson, Alaska - 1 Brigade Combat Team
Fort Stewart, Ga. - 3 Brigade Combat Teams
Fort Wainwright, Alaska - 1 Brigade Combat Team
Schofield Barracks, Hawaii - 2 Brigade Combat Teams (Stryker)
Korea - 1 Brigade Combat Team
Germany - 1 Brigade Combat Team (Stryker)
Italy - 1 Brigade Combat Team
Fort Irwin, Calif. - (NTC 1 Brigade Combat Team (-))

DoD warns Soldiers against 'loan shark' lenders

By Terri Lukach
AFPS

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The Defense Department launched a new effort to educate servicemembers about the dangers of borrowing from "loan-shark" lending companies and to teach them how to avoid ending up in a spiral of compounding debt, a DoD official said June 17.

The most prevalent type of loan-shark lending affecting military personnel is what is known as "payday loans," said John M. Molino, deputy undersecretary of defense for military community and family policy.

"A payday loan is essentially a plug - money that gets you from today to the next payday so you can cover your bills," The problem is that money is very expensive, he said.

"Typically, a payday loan of a \$100 will cost the borrower \$17 for two weeks. The average payday loan is about \$500, so now we're talking about a fee of \$85."

"By itself, that's not a big prob-

lem," Molino said. "However, when you consider that it is not uncommon for that military member to roll the loan over four or five times, that \$85 will grow exponentially to the point where you are paying an enormous amount of money for the relatively meager amount of the loan."

"It got you through payday, but if you weren't able to pay it off, now it's two more weeks, and two more weeks, and you're paying nearly 500 percent interest annually. That's a lot of money to pay," he said.

Considering that about nine percent of all enlisted personnel and 12 percent of all mid-level non-commissioned officers use payday loans, the potential for detrimental impact on mission accomplishment is very real, Molino said.

"If you're in debt, you have other things in mind. You're doing things other than concentrating on the mission; maybe you're taking on other employment. The effects are long-lasting and go deep into a person's performance; it affects unit readi-

"We believe we need to work hard to limit the impact of payday lenders, but the real answer is to help our servicemembers and their families get in control of their own finances."

— John M. Molino
Deputy undersecretary of defense for military community and family policy

ness," Molino said.

Part of the problem is the proximity of payday lenders to military installations.

"If you look at where they position their businesses, they are right outside the gate," Molino said.

A recent study of 15,000 payday lenders in more than 13,000 ZIP codes in 20 states that host military installations revealed that payday lenders open their storefronts around military installations.

Molino said the department is taking steps, such as hosting fairs at military installations, to educate military members about the

dangers of payday loans and familiarize them with ways to put themselves and their families on a sound financial footing.

"We can make Soldiers smarter," he said. "We can make them better consumers; we can teach them how to save for a rainy day, so when they need to borrow they can - and pay themselves back, at no interest. We are also doing something about payday lenders."

Molino said his office is watching them closely, looking at behaviors and patterns that are inconsistent with state law and encouraging states to pass laws that are not only friendly to ser-

vicemembers but also require honesty and discipline on the part of payday lenders.

Molino cited Georgia, Florida and Oklahoma as examples of states that have taken positive action against payday lenders. Last year Georgia passed legislation that eliminated payday lending from the state, he said, while Florida and Oklahoma now require a 24-hour waiting period between payday loans, thus eliminating rollovers and multiple loans.

"We believe we need to work hard to limit the impact of payday lenders, but the real answer is to help our servicemembers and their families get control of their own finances to be in charge of their future," Molino said.

TYME OUT
1 x 3"
Black Only
1x3 Tyme Out.

COTTONWOOD THEATERS
1 x 3"
Black Only
1X3 COTTONWOOD JULY

CITY OF MANHATTAN
2 x 3"
Black Only
2x3 city of man arts and park

MANHATTAN SHOE REPAIR
1 x 2"
Black Only
1X2 MAN SHOE JULY TF 5056

GEARY COMMUNITY HOSPITAL
3 x 5.5"
Black Only
3x5.5 Pregant Military Dep.



100th MPAD/Bromley

Two Soldiers of 125th FSB, give their final respects to Spc. Jared D. Hartley at memorial services held on Camp Taji, Iraq July 21.

Unit bids brother farewell

Sgt. Kevin Bromley
3rd Bde., 1st AD

TAJI, Iraq — The Chapel was full of Soldiers; yet still and silent. In a room full of people, Spc. Jared Hartley's fellow Soldiers were alone with their thoughts.

They gathered in the Warrior Chapel at Camp Taji to bid farewell to a young man, a friend, a hero, a brother.

Hartley was assigned to the 125th Forward Support Battalion's Personal Security Detachment and helped provide security to multitudes of Soldiers traveling the roads in Iraq. He was killed while performing these duties July 15, north of Baghdad.

"Hartley volunteered for our Personal Security Detachment ... his actions quickly set him apart as one of the very best Soldiers in the Battalion," said Maj. Shannon Pool, executive officer of the 125th FSB.

According to Pool, Hartley's dedication and expertise as a machine gunner were known and respected throughout his unit.

"I remember being amazed by

his proficiency while watching him work at a range here in Iraq and at our home station train up," Pool said.

"I've always known him as an energetic Soldier who was willing to help anyone out, whether they were a private or a colonel," said Capt. Cheryl Massisak commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 125th FSB. "I admired and respected him for his energy and commitment to others and especially for his devotion to the unit."

Sgt. 1st Class Jason L. Scott, Hartley's former 1st Sgt., indicated that Hartley's most memorable traits were his unrelenting energy and ability to make things out of nothing.

"When he first came to the unit, you could tell he was going to be a good addition to the company," Scott said. "He was a master at 'jerry-rigging' ... you could count on him to accomplish any task no matter how large or small."

Hartley, a trained mechanic, was considered one of the best in his unit by many in his unit. Staff Sgt. Dustin Waggoner, Hartley's team chief, said he could fix any-

thing correctly and quickly even if just to rig it to serve a purpose just long enough to accomplish a mission.

According to Waggoner, Hartley will be remembered by his fellow Soldiers as more than a co-worker; he will be remembered as a friend.

"Spc. Hartley was a fun guy to be around, he had no enemies. He often joked around and kept everyone going during difficult missions," Waggoner said.

"As a person, I have never known anyone to have more friends," Pool said.

Pool said Hartley excelled as a Soldier, he kept going during hard times and pushed forward regardless of difficulty.

"He never backed down from a job or mission, he was always willing to do more," Pool said.

"The loss of a Soldier is never easy," said Col. David Bishop commander of 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division. "Hartley represented the very best that America has to offer and he died a hero in the service of his country. He gave his life to better the lives of others and there is no greater gift."

Four Soldiers inducted into Audie Murphy Club

By Stephanie Perrin
Staff writer

Although he was only 5 feet, 5 inches tall and 110 lbs. when he first enlisted in the Army, Sgt. Audie Murphy has been considered one of the greatest combat Soldiers in the Army's history.

Four of Fort Riley's non-commissioned officers were inducted into his namesake club during a ceremony July 20 at Barlow Theater. The Sergeant Audie Murphy Club recognizes NCOs who exhibit leadership traits and professionalism above and beyond their peers.

Staff Sgt. Mark Grimsley of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized) was the first NCO inducted into the elite club. Grimsley has been in the Army for five years and a team leader for one.

"The thing I like most about (Grimsley) is that he always leads by example," said Cpl. Sixto-

tana.

Staff Sgt. Tyrone Manning of Medical Department Activity and his wife, Lakisha, were next to walk onto the stage. He has been in the Army for 17 years.

Spc. Davaughn Larmond said there are four things he typically receives from Manning during passing in the hospital's hallways: a professional greeting, a firm hand shake, a warm smile and the question "What courses are you taking this semester?"

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank Staff Sgt. Manning for his personal drive to see his Soldiers move forward professionally," Garner said.

Staff Sgt. Gary Ream then escorted his wife, Melissa, onto the stage to receive his induction into the prestigious club. He has been in the Army for 17 years.

"The thing I like most about (Ream) is, first of all, besides having the same first name as me and his ability to hit a softball so that he can jog around the base

instead of sprint and his concern for Soldiers and families and his ability to get the job done," said Sgt. 1st Class Gary Moore.

Staff Sgt. Marcus Ricks was the last NCO inducted into the Sgt. Audie Murphy Club. He has been in the Army for 13 years. He escorted his wife, Natasha, onto the stage for his induction. Spc. Dyncia Everette said Ricks has always been concerned about her professional career and persuades her to compete in upcoming boards.

The four inductees received: Sgt. Audie Murphy certificate and medallion. Commanding General's congratulatory letter, Command Sgt. Maj.'s congratulatory letter, Army commendation medal, the Sgt. Audie Murphy Club membership card and the movies "To Hell and Back" and "Blackhawk Down." Their spouses received a certificate of excellence and the Military Family Medallion.

Top Soldiers continued from page 1

won.

This year's board was a little different than other boards Vallem has been to as well, he said. Unlike past boards, all candidates for the NCO of the Year were in the room at the same time. But there were benefits to that strategy, Vallem said.

"Because they had everyone in the room at the same time, I was pretty much able to gauge how I did. There were a couple of NCOs in there who were really on top of their stuff. But I walked out of the room knowing I did well. I felt pretty good."

Both Vallem and Mosher said they were slightly surprised they had won, given the talent of their

fellow candidates.

"The other two people who had went in there were really good Soldiers. They knew a lot. And it just surprised me that I was picked out over my peers to represent Fort Riley Soldiers," Mosher said.

Winning the honors has been a goal Vallem has wanted to accomplish. There were two main reasons Vallem decided to try for NCO of the Year, he said.

"I wanted to be Soldier of the Year and go on to be NCO of the year. It's something that's been in my mind," he said. "Also, I wanted to do something for my unit. I don't look at this as an individual achievement because a lot of people helped me out along the way."

Colvin continued from page 1

in my arms, and I think of them everyday ... Please send me home ... I am ready to start my next chapter of my life."

Dixon sentenced Colvin to reduction in rank to a private, forfeiture of all pay and allowances, a bad conduct discharge in addition to the 12 years of confinement. Colvin received credit for the 293 days he has already spent in jail since being arrested in Clay County for the crime. He will become eligible for parole after serving one third of his sentence.

CANDLEWOOD HEALTH MART PHARMAC
2 x 2"
Black Only
2X2 Candlewood TF June ml

SPRINT-NEBRASKA PRESS
4 x 10.5"
Black Only
24250-05075NSA Blah Blah Blah

COLLEGE HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH
2 x 2"
Black Only
2X2 Coll Height TF June

RILEY CO. FAIRBOARD
2 x 6"
Black Only
2X6 RILEY CARNIVAL

Post news in brief

Civilians must attend training

All civilian employees are required to receive anti-terrorism awareness training on an annual basis.

Initial training must be conducted in person with a trained anti-terrorism Officer.

Refresher training can be fulfilled by attending a session with a certified AT trainer or on-line at www.at-awareness.org (log-in "aware").

Anti-terrorism training is conducted at 9 a.m. every Thursday in the Patton Hall auditorium, 200 Henry Avenue. The training is scheduled to run until 10:30 a.m. and is conducted as part of the in-processing for new and mobilizing Soldiers.

Contact Capt. Rob Ruskiewicz, at 239-6044 Tuesday or Wednesday afternoon to verify seating availability.

Environmental classes set

The Environmental Division, DPW has scheduled the following training courses:

Environmental Team Training: Environmental Team training certifies environmental team leaders and members in how to handle hazardous materials and waste handling as well as spill responses at the unit level.

Leaders and team members must attend this course within 60 days of appointment to their duties.

Class begins at 9 a.m. each day, Aug. 8-9 and Aug. 22-23, in Room 6, Building 407. The course lasts two days.

Environmental Team Training Refresher: This course is an annual refresher to the Environmental Team training course.

Class starts at 9 a.m. Aug. 16, in Room 6, Building 407. The class lasts 2 1/2 hours.

Battery Hazard Awareness Training (Code Name Lithium): Code Name Lithium course is designed for key personnel who in their course of duty receive, store, issue and then transport lithium batteries for disposal.

This course includes training on the characteristics and hazards associated with the various types of lithium batteries used on Fort Riley.

This course also includes training on health, safety and personal protective equipment when handling lithium batteries.

Class starts at 10 a.m. every Wednesday of each month in Building 1930 at Camp Funston. This class lasts one hour.

For information or to enroll in a class, call 239-0446 or check with the battalion's schools non-commissioned officer.

Irwin offers eye appointments

Military family members and military retirees can schedule optometry appointments at Irwin Army Community Hospital.

To schedule an appointment, call 239-DOCS of (888) 239-3627.

DoD committed to veterans' health care officials say

By Terri Lukach
AFPS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Defense Department will work with the Veterans Affairs Department to help cover a shortfall in VA funds caused by increased dental benefits claimed by returning veterans of the global war on terror, a top DoD health official told Congress June 28.

"The Department of Defense is firmly committed to protecting the health of its servicemembers — before, during and after deployment — and all our other health beneficiaries," Dr. Stephen L. Jones said in testimony before the House Subcommittee on Military Quality of Life, Veterans

Affairs and Related Agencies. Jones is principal deputy assistant secretary of defense for health affairs.

"DoD attempts to demobilize our Reservists as soon as possible so that they can return to their families and civilian life," he said, "after ensuring that all health issues they face have been adequately addressed."

However, because health care benefits entitle veterans either to space-available care in military dental treatment facilities or voluntary enrollment in the Tricare dental program, some Reservists have made increasing use of their VA benefit entitlement, Jones said.

The result has been slightly

increased costs to the VA for dental care.

"At a recent hearing before the House Committee on Veterans Affairs, our colleagues in the VA described a significant funding shortfall in their fiscal year 2005 health care budget. A small portion of this shortfall, stated as approximately \$90 million, was attributed to dental care for deactivated or recently separated Reserve and National Guard personnel," Jones said.

"We met with the VA staff to review this requirement and provide an independent estimate of the amount," he continued. "As the result of our joint work, we believe the additional workload has resulted in a \$54 million

requirement above VA's 2005 baseline."

Jones said DoD is investigating various transfer mechanisms between the two departments to help the VA defray the remaining increase in dental care.

"The Department of Defense is committed to taking care of its own personnel who are put into harm's way to defend our nation," he said. "We provide the best possible care for our wounded servicemembers and have been well-supported by the Congress in acquiring sufficient resources to perform our missions. Where appropriate, and only with their coordinated cooperation, we have entered into joint ventures with the VA as a part of this process."

Senate aims to fix budget error
\$1.5 billion bill would take care of shortfall

Special to the Post

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts (R-Kan.) supports a critical amendment to the Interior Appropriations bill passed by the Senate to correct a \$1.5 billion shortfall in veterans' health care services.

"At a time when our nation's men and women in uniform are making huge sacrifices to fight and win the war on terror, it is our

duty to ensure that when they return there are services to take care of their medical needs," Roberts said. "I am pleased the Senate has acted immediately in a bipartisan way to ensure that there is no gap in assistance."

At issue were internal accounting errors made by the U.S. Department of Veteran's Affairs that would have created a \$1.5 billion shortfall for resources to address the health care needs of

more than 100,000 Soldiers returning from deployments overseas.

The Interior Appropriations Bill now goes to a conference committee to resolve differences between the House and Senate versions of the legislation.

Roberts is chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence and a senior member of the Senate Committee on Armed Services.

KANSAS PRESS ASSOCIATION
2 x 2"
Black Only
SCHNEIDER

KANSAS PRESS ASSOCIATION
2 x 2"
Black Only
SCRAPBOOK

KANSAS PRESS ASSOCIATION
2 x 2"
Black Only
BRANSON

CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS- THAYER
3 x 10.5"
Black Only
3X10.5 Charter 7/22 4386 ml

SONY-ARMED FORCES COMM.
3 x 10.5"
Black only
578444 STEALTH

Commentary

Friday, July 29, 2005

Fort Riley Post

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Riley Roundtable

This week's question:

What does freedom mean to you?



"Freedom to me is getting the choice to do whatever you want to do in life."

Sgt. Taj Keeler
HHC, 24th Inf. Div. (Mech)
G-4 Installation Material
Management Center
Home: New Orleans, La.



"Freedom is all the liberties that most people take for granted, and that people in the Armed Forces are fighting to support and defend everyone's freedom and the ability to live the way we live as Americans."

2nd Lt. James Reilly
2nd Bn., 70th Armor
Home: West Haven, Conn.



"Freedom to me is being able to do things your way ... like your religious preference ... and the right to wear the type of clothes you want to wear."

Pfc. Mariko Nysta
Co. A, 101st FSB
Information Systems Analyst
Home: Bronx, N.Y.



"Freedom can mean a bunch of different things, but to me personally, freedom is the fact of knowing that if there's anything that needs to be done, I'm there to do it ... Freedom just means it's knowing that you're safe ... If you're safe, you're free."

Pvt. Steven Andrew Seamans
331st Signal Co.
Networking Switching Systems
Operator/Maintainer
Home: Amherst, Va.



"To me, freedom means the opportunity to pursue your potential and interests within the framework of responsible behavior."

Sgt. James S. Boyles, Jr.
Det. D, 15th PSB
Home: Omaha, Neb.

Next week's question:

What would you consider to be a worthy subject for a post monument?

Opinions may be e-mailed to the editor at mike.heronemus@riley.army.mil or faxed to the editor at 239-2592. Opinions must reach the editor by close of business Tuesdays to appear in the following Friday's paper.

The following comments were made by Air Force Gen. Richard B. Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, July 12 during an interview on PBS's "The News Hour with Jim Lehrer" and reported in an American Forces Press Service article written by Jim Garamone.

WASHINGTON — Political progress in Iraq and Afghanistan will end the insurgencies in those countries, but American and Coalition troops will be needed to provide the security and stability for that progress to take place.

American servicemembers have been prepared to face the challenging and thinking adversary they face in the global war on terrorism.

The insurgency in Iraq is dangerous, but the insurgents are at the highest level of effort they are capable of. We're having pretty good success against pieces of this.

Insurgencies take time to break. They're broken by the political process. It's my view that the driver now is the political process and the success that Iraq has in developing its constitution, referendum and then elections. That's what's going to beat the insurgency.

Until then, the coalition and Iraqi forces must go after the insurgents, especially those with worldwide connections. Jordan-



Gen. Richard B. Myers

ian-born al Qaeda in Iraq leader terrorist Abu Musab al-Zarqawi is one target. We know he has instructions to work outside of Iraq, a very dangerous individual with very dangerous murdering associates.

Regarding the big trends in Iraq:

On the political front, Sunni Arabs have been brought in to the political process, a very hopeful sign.

Iraqi security forces are building up and becoming more capable. They are shouldering a larger burden of the security effort in the country.

We haven't had a major unit defect or fall apart since the elections. Before that, we had some issues with unit integrity and people leaving prematurely in tough situations. The success in leadership, equipment and training has changed that.

Infrastructure work is making some progress, but it will be slow going. We're still not going to meet the demand for electricity. Right now, electricity is free in Iraq, so there's always going to be

more of a demand than there is supply.

The infrastructure was in worse shape under Saddam than anyone imagined. It will take time to rehabilitate basic services.

The psychopaths launching suicide attacks against innocent men, women and children pose a threat to the nation. U.S. and Coalition forces have had to adjust to the changes in the enemy and enemy tactics. They are doing that and keeping in front of the enemy in many ways.

Military planning is not a prediction of what's going to happen. It's planning that tries to cover as many contingencies as you can think of. And I think we did a good job of doing that.

We know that a plan never survives the first contact with the enemy; that's classic, and we understand that. So we need to be measured on not only how well we planned, how well we anticipated, but how well we adapted to the situation we found.

Commanders in theater will get whatever number of troops they believe they need, but there is a balance that needs to be struck between becoming an occupying power and having enough forces to provide security.

Political and economic progress is equally important in Afghanistan. I think our tendency is to look at the last event and say, 'Gee, we're either doing well or

we're doing poorly.' That's not how I look at things.

Obviously we had a big tragedy in Afghanistan, losing the three people on the ground and the 16 people in the helicopter. (He was referring to the MH-47 helicopter crash June 28 in Kunar province that killed all 16 servicemembers aboard and the subsequent location of the bodies of three other servicemembers who had been operating as part of a special operations team in that region.)

Before that, I think we lost three or four people this whole year, maybe five.

Focusing on the big loss in Afghanistan is the wrong thing to do. You've got to step back a little bit.

This is not just about Taliban. It's not just about killing terrorists. This is about political development. It's about economic development. It's about a lot of other issues.

The remnant Taliban will seek to disrupt the Sept. 18 National Assembly and provincial elections. They will not be any more successful this time than they were last time.

The Taliban are confined to very remote areas and don't seem to have much impact beyond that. Afghan military forces have been participating in combat now for well over a year, and they're taking the fight to the enemy.

My Soldier

My Hero



Sgt. Kenneth Schall
2nd Bn., 70th Armor

Kenny was the ultimate Soldier. It's men like him that helped make this country the greatest in the world.

He could have done anything he wanted to with his life but he felt that he had to interrupt his life plans in order to serve his country. Even at the expense of his own life.

Much to my despair he lost his life in Iraq on May 22, 2005. Me, his dad, sister and brother miss him deeply.

But as so proud of him as a man, a Soldier, a son and a brother. We couldn't have asked for better.

My son Sgt. Kenneth John Schall is my HERO!

- Terri Schall

My Soldier

My Hero



Lt. James Arrington
2nd Bn., 70th Armor

My husband is the healthcare provider assigned to the battalion. After graduating in September 2004 and coming to (Fort) Riley in December, he was deployed in February 2005. Even as a new grad PA, I'm sure his colleagues would speak highly of his skills.

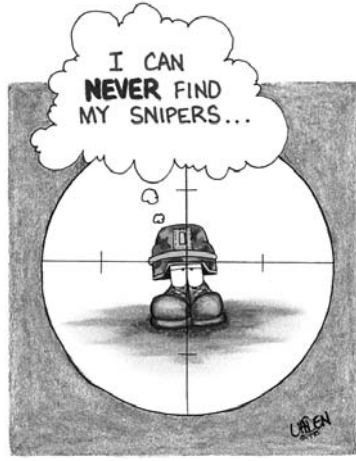
We met when I was an active duty registered nurse at Fort Sill and were stationed together at Fort Riley. After he deployed, we decided we didn't want to wait to get married so we planned it during his R&R in Vegas.

He doesn't have a wedding to look forward to when he comes back but he does have a loving wife and a home.

- Judy Arrington

Grunt

By Wayne Uhden



FORT RILEY POST

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What are your concerns or suggestions for improvement?

Your name (optional) and phone number (if you would like to talk about your ideas):

Post news in brief

Spouses can use ACAP

Spouses of Soldiers who plan on separating from military service or are exploring the possibility, can use the same ACAP services as that of their Soldier spouses can attend a pre-separation benefits briefing, the 3 1/2 day TAP/ACAP Job Search Workshop, job fairs or other special ACAP events and work with a professional counselor to finalize a resume and prepare for interviews.

For more information, call the ACAP Center at 239-2278/2248 or stop by our office located on Main Post in Building 210, Room 006.

Clinic offers added services

Behavioral health services are now available at the Consolidated Troop Medical Clinic. Any active duty Soldier can speak with a credentialed social worker in the clinic from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday.

No appointment is necessary; services are provided on a walk-in basis.

Soldiers can visit the clinic specifically for behavioral health services or can be seen in conjunction with a medical appointment. Issues such as sleep disturbance, family stress, grief/loss, combat stress and anger management can all be addressed.

For more information, call the CTMC at 239-4411.

Old oil, antifreeze must go to center

Post residents are reminded to place used motor oil and antifreeze in proper containers and take them to the Automotive Skills Center, 7753 Apennines Drive on Custer Hill, or the Household Hazardous Waste Facility at the Environmental Waste Management Center in Building 1945, Camp Funston.

It is illegal to throw used oil and antifreeze into refuse dumpsters or pour them down storm drains.

For more information, call the Automotive Skills Center at 239-9764 or 239-4028, the waste facility at 239-6797 or Jill Dalton at 239-2385.

Perinatal loss support offered

The Perinatal Loss Support Group is open to parents whose lives have been touched by the death of a baby from conception to shortly after birth. The goal of the group is to provide services to families who impart on the long and difficult road to recovery in dealing with the loss of their child.

Facilitated by social workers, registered nurses and chaplains, the group meets from 6 to 8 p.m. on the third Thursday of every month in the Education Professional Development Division classroom on the fourth floor of the hospital.

For more information, call Elizabeth Gray at 239-7681.

Device keeps troops alive

By Cheryl Boujnida
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — The Army has developed a new device to thwart terrorist activities while saving service members' lives.

The Improvised Explosive Devices Countermeasure Equipment, otherwise known as ICE, was developed by a team of engineers, scientists and Soldiers at White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico to defeat IEDs, which are the most prominent threat to deployed servicemembers in Iraq.

The ICE device, which is roughly the size of a bread box, uses commercial and military technology to thwart enemy IEDs, said Maj. Raymond D. Pickering, who helped lead the ICE design team at White Sands during its development. Thousands of ICE systems are being utilized by all of the military services and thousands more are on order, Pickering said.

He said that the design process involved thinking like a terrorist and acting like one too — fast.

"In the old days, we fought wars by buying a tank and then the enemy would buy a tank and try to defeat ours. That whole process took years," he said.

"Nowadays, terrorists use mortar and artillery shells as weapons and trigger them with devices like a garage door opener," Pickering said they can purchase parts on the commercial market and design new weapons very quickly.

Due to the combined efforts of engineers, scientists and Soldiers

working at the Army Research Laboratory at White Sands Missile Range and New Mexico State University's Physical Science Laboratory, ICE was conceptualized and fielded in less than six months.

"Normally, it takes years to develop a prototype, test, manufacture and field it. The desire to get a product in the hands of our fighting forces immediately and prevent further casualties overcame the lengthy process," Pickering said.

Shane Cunico, the lead ICE engineer at White Sands, said every day that there's a delay in the process means a servicemember may not come home.

"Approximately three servicemembers are killed by an IED every day," he said. "We had to get the product into their hands as fast as we could because even one day means something."

Cunico said the military's old acquisition process is costly in terms of time and money and that a terrorist can wipe out all of the work done by engineers by switching to a new weapon.

"Countering terrorism is like a big chess game where you make one move and they make another. It's crucial that we stay one or two moves ahead of them," he said.

Cunico stressed ICE is an important development because it is an adaptable piece of equipment.

"It's not a static device. We can add to its capabilities. If the process is too time consuming, the military ends up with a big paperweight that costs a lot of money and can't be adapted to the



Army photo
Staff Sgt. Michael Keener inspects the installation of an ICE unit in a U.S. Marine Corps "Humvee."

changing pace of terrorists."

There are other IED counter measure systems on the market that all serve a value, but ICE is different, he said.

"It's unique in the fact that it's a government design; it has programmability, can be fielded at a rapid pace and has an unlimited capacity in terms of manufacturing," Cunico said. "Engineers can design almost anything, but it's important to get the product to the Soldier to see how it's tactically used because it affects design feasibility."

Cunico and Pickering agree that Soldier input is crucial to engineering a useful product.

"We have received a lot of pos-

itive feedback from the field and since then we have developed 5,000 remote control cables that can be used from the front seat or passenger side of a "Humvee" to activate the device," Cunico said.

In terms of maintenance, ICE can be repaired by Soldiers in the theater at the unit level. Recalling a Marine who did not want to part with his box, Cunico smiled.

"He brought his box in to be reprogrammed and the shop told him to come back the next day, but he told them he was willing to wait because he was not leaving without it," Cunico said. "It's heartening to know our efforts really mean something to folks out there."

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Coalition troops help Kabul residents

By Matthew MacRoberts
Special to AFPS

KABUL, Afghanistan — Students at Lamashaheed School in Kabul attend classes in conditions that make learning difficult and can even endanger their health. But, the teachers continue to instruct, and the children eagerly attend class.

The U.S. military and the United Kingdom's 2nd Battalion, Royal Gurkha Rifles, have been working to supply schools and hospitals in Kabul with essential supplies and material support U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Hendrick Felix and his staff of Soldiers, Airmen and Sailors keep an inventory of prayer rugs, Korans, children's clothes, sugar, tea, beans, rice, stoves, hygiene kits and school supplies.

The troops support 13 schools, seven kindergartens and as many local hospitals as their supplies allow.

British Army Capt. Daniel Lama, the Gurkha 2nd Battalion's civil assistance representative, said the most important items given to students are pens, pencils and notebooks. "This is because at the schools these items are not issued and are, in relative terms, expensive. Colored pencils or crayons

are also fantastic and help add some color into their young lives," Lama said.

Helping supply everyday items is one part of the Coalition's effort to return life to normal in Afghanistan. "This program is part of the Commanders Emergency Response Program," Felix said.

For Felix and his crew, going to Kabul recently to distribute sup-

plies was special. "It was the first time I helped issue the (civic aid) supplies we stock to Afghans," said Petty Officer 2nd Class Omar Avila, an El Paso native and a Navy storekeeper. "It felt great actually giving it to them. The crowded classrooms and the conditions in the hospital surprised us."

Lamashaheed, which is named

after one of the school's teachers who was shot and killed in her classroom during the war, is one of the schools receiving assistance. It was built to accommodate some 2,000 students but has more than 6,300. Corridors and stairwells are used as makeshift classrooms and tents are used for the overflow.

"My first impression was they really need a place to facilitate the

classes," Felix said. "They need at least a fan to circulate the air to just be out in the tents. The children and teachers just bear it and withstand the heat," he said. "That's sheer determination."

Tent classrooms have dirt floors, and students inside are at the mercy of the environment. In summer, temperatures in the tents can rocket to more than 120 degrees. Many children experience health problems from the heat: nosebleeds, headaches, nausea, dehydration and heat stroke. Every tent has jugs of water, and the teachers try to ensure their students take frequent water breaks to stave off heat injuries.

"The heat is unbearable sometimes," said Rahima, a teacher at Lamashaheed. "My big wish is to get rid of the tents and get proper classrooms."

Hospitals in the community also welcome the assistance brought by the civic aid partnership. Many medical services, such as CT scans and liver function tests and other blood work, are not readily available.

"Working with the hospitals, we support the weakest members of society," Lama said. "And working with schools we support the future of the country. This has important force-protection spin-offs as the military is then seen as a force for

good in an additional role from that of a security provider."

Maiwand Hospital's director, Dr. M. Gul, said his main request was for some way for his staff to liaison with Coalition or International Security Assistance Force medical facilities so better diagnoses can be made and treatments prescribed.

"The hospitals aren't really hospitals; they are more like just a building with beds," Felix said. "(The doctors') highest form of medical technology is their minds and their hands. If they had the technology we have, they could better treat their patients. But they lack that technology, and they lose people every day."

Lama said the most upsetting thing he sees during his distribution of aid is "the seriously ill children in the intensive care ward of Maiwand Hospital. Many of these children have little or no hope of survival because the doctors lack the basic equipment and drugs to diagnose and then treat them."

Regarding his partnership with U.S. forces, Lama said, "I think it would be fair to say that the U.S. and U.K. forces have a close working relationship and this is recognized around the world ... And the development of joint aid projects is, therefore, yet another example of this fruitful relationship."



Army photo

Afghan girls at the Lamashaheed school laugh after having their picture taken while receiving new pens, pencils, colored markers and other school supplies from the Commander's Emergency Response Program.

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Deployed troops cope with heat

By Donna Miles
AFPS

WASHINGTON — With the blazing temperature dominating the headlines throughout the United States, troops in Baghdad, where temperatures typically hit 120 to 130 degrees, say they're getting a new perspective on what "hot" really means.

"Hot" is when bottled water becomes almost undrinkable within 30 or 40 minutes. When Bradley fighting vehicles and Abrams tanks leave imprints in the asphalt and boots start sticking to the roadways. When Humvees coming back from patrols through the city return to their forward operating base speckled with sticky tar from the streets, softened by the sun. When water poured on the sidewalk evaporates within seconds.

And hot is when, even in the middle of the night, the temperature rarely dips below 85 or 90 degrees.

It's "pretty brutal" for troops, Army Sgt. William Howard from the 3rd Infantry Division's 2nd Brigade Combat Team in eastern Baghdad told the American Forces Press Service during a telephone interview today.

Saddled with 40 to 50 pounds of gear when they go out on missions, including flak vests that add about 10 degrees to their body temperatures and Kevlar helmets that cook their heads, soldiers from the "Spartan Brigade" typically run four- to five-hour patrols with little reprieve from Baghdad's blistering sun.

Once, when out on a mission as part of the sergeant major's security detail, Howard remembers getting a few minutes to sit in the shade and rest.

With his protective vest, Kevlar helmet and boots, the few minutes of respite "felt so good," the Dayton, Ohio, native recalled. Then he noticed a thermometer nearby; its reading: 110 degrees in the shade.

Air conditioning in Humvees - a standard feature in all up-armored Humvees that's also



USA/Goemaere
Army Sgt. William Howard from the 3rd Infantry Division's 2nd Brigade Combat Team takes a sip from a water bottle to help keep hydrated in Baghdad's blazing July heat.

being installed in models with add-on armor kits - helps. But Howard was quick to correct any misconception that they make the vehicles comfortable. "Don't get confused," he said. "It's not that cool."

Gunners, perched atop the vehicles, have it the worst, because they're constantly exposed, not only to enemy threats, but also to the blazing sun, out of reach of the little air conditioning the Humvees pump out.

"We rotate them a lot to get them out of the heat," Howard said.

Army Sgt. David Winkle said noncommissioned officers play a big role in protecting Soldiers from the heat. They constantly remind them to drink lots of water, to eat even when the heat has zapped their appetites and to get plenty of rest to keep their energy up.

Patrols all carry coolers of water, chilled with ice from the dining facility, and many troops have "camel backs," personal

backpacks filled with drinking water. Some Soldiers soak headbands and neckbands in the water and wrap them around their foreheads and necks to help cool them down.

"You drink all the water you can," Howard said. And then, under their leaders' watchful eyes, troops drink some more.

Sgt. 1st Class David Brissett, NCO in charge of medical operations for the brigade, said keeping soldiers hydrated is essential, because waiting until they show symptoms of dehydration is often too late to prevent heat injuries. "Once that ball gets rolling, it's like an avalanche," he said.

The brigade has had only "a couple of cases" of heat exhaustion and no full-blown incidents of heat stroke, an impressive track record considering the conditions the troops are operating under, he said.

Brissett said he's been impressed at how well leaders are taking care of their troops. "We do the education, but it's incumbent on first-line supervisors to see

that it's applied," he said. "The bottom line is, (preventing heat injuries is) up to soldiers on the ground and their leaders."

But preparing for duty in such grueling conditions starts long before the troops deploy, Winkle said.

"We train throughout the year when we're not deployed," he said, with soldiers regularly training with protective gear and Kevlar helmets in the heat when it would be far more comfortable and cooler to train without them.

"Soldiers learn to cope," Winkle said.

And for many of the Soldiers, who like Winkle are serving their second summer deployment in Iraq, the second go-around, with better food, better living conditions and more air conditioning, is a little easier than the first.

"It's not such a shock when you've already experienced it once," he said. "Your body already knows what it's like, and it makes it a little easier when you get that first blast of heat when you walk outside."

And as hard as it might be to imagine, Howard said the troops actually begin to get accustomed to the hot weather.

"The more you stay out in it, the more acclimated you get to it," he said.

When they return to their forward operating base after a mission, the troops strip off their sweat-soaked and salt-crusted shirts and savor the air conditioning that cools most offices and barracks, as well as their dining facility.

"It feels great," said Winkle, with a long, refreshing emphasis on "great."

For most members of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, the big day they're looking forward to will come in January, when they're due to go home to Fort Stewart, Ga.

But in the meantime, many troops have their short-term sights on September. That's when daytime temperatures are expected to begin dipping below 90 degrees.



Army News Service photo
A ceremony attendee holds the street sign honoring Pfc. Rayshawn S. Johnson, who was killed in Iraq in 2003. The street was renamed in Johnson's honor in Brooklyn, N.Y., July 16.

Brooklyn honors Soldier with street

By Eric E. Huff

Army News Service

BROOKLYN, N.Y. — Pfc. Rayshawn S. Johnson, a resident of the Flatbush neighborhood in Brooklyn who was killed in Iraq almost two years ago, was honored in a street re-naming ceremony July 16.

"It gives me great pleasure, on behalf of a grateful community, to salute Pvt. 1st Class Rayshawn Johnson and his family," said New York City Council Member Yvette D. Clarke.

"We stand here today to tell the world that our community produces champions, too," she said. "Everyone can come to the corner of Maple Street and Albany Avenue in Brooklyn to visit Rayshawn Johnson Way so that, years from now, future generations will know the sacrifice he made."

Johnson was serving with 4th Infantry Division when he was killed in action Nov. 3, 2003, in Tikrit, Iraq. He was the 397th Armed Forces casualty and was

killed when the "Humvee" he was riding in struck a land mine. He was the fifth New York City resident to be killed in Iraq and the first casualty from New York City after the end of the Iraqi war May 1, 2003.

Born Feb. 13, 1983, in Brooklyn to Patty Johnson and Nathaniel Herbert, he was cared for by his foster mother, Deborah Wynter. Johnson was a graduate of Mahalia Junior High School and Wingate High School in Brooklyn. He attended one year at Touro College before enlisting in the Army.

He completed basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., and was assigned to the 4th Infantry Division at Fort Hood, Texas. He was subsequently deployed in Iraq as a member of the 299th Engineer Battalion. His mission was to help build bridges.

Johnson was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart and Bronze Star Medal.

"It is with deep gratitude that I salute his mother, Deborah Wynter, and all the members of Rayshawn's family," Clarke said.

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Reserve award honors warriors, families

By Cheryl Boujnida
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — The Army Reserve has taken a new approach to recognition within its ranks by developing the Welcome Home Warrior-Citizen Award that honors Soldiers, family members and employees.

Lt. Gen. James R. Helmly, commanding general of the Army Reserve, presented the award to 15 Soldiers and their families at the Pentagon's Hall of Heroes July 7. Retired Lt. Col. Orfeo "Chuck" Trombetta Jr., Army Reserve Ambassador for Maryland, presented Soldiers with a commemorative coin.

"This publicly acknowledges those who serve and those who support them," Helmly said. "I salute you. The award provides an appropriate, timely and enduring memento to Soldiers and families while conveying our nation's gratitude for selfless service and sacrifice."

"These Soldiers are the best America has to offer and they deserve recognition for harkening to that call to duty to our nation," Helmly added.

To be eligible to receive the award, approved by Congress and President George W. Bush in 2004, Soldiers must have served in the Global War on Terror in Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom for 180 days or more.

"Even the president acknowledges the rightness of this award. It is the right thing to do because it reminds Soldiers and families of the call to duty," Helmly said.

Col. Jerry Jorgensen, former deputy director of Army Reserve Communications, said the award fits into the "call to duty" theme of sustaining public support.

"Whether you're a Soldier, family member or employer, we are all part of the team," Jorgensen said.

Helmly explained the award is not limited to Army Reserve or National Guard Soldiers and active-duty components may opt to award its Soldiers the Welcome Home Warrior-Citizen award in the near future.

"We're all in this fight together," Helmly said.

About 3,600 Soldiers have been presented the awards since February. By the end of September, the Army Reserve expects to

have honored 70,000 Soldiers with the award, which includes an encased American flag, a specially designed commemorative coin, lapel pin set for the Soldier, spouse and employer, and a Welcome Home Warrior Citizen flag.

"This award represents something deeper than a Soldier's rank or pay. Soldiering is more than a job, it's a commitment," Helmly said.

Sgt. 1st Class Judith Quiroz, who received the award, said this was one of the greatest moments in her life.

"As a Soldier, I am honored to receive this award and I'm really excited for my family because I know they deserve it," she said. "I chose to be a Soldier and I love what I do, but they are my family and, in a way, they serve, too."

Quiroz, who spent eight years in the Army and has five years as an active Reserve Soldier under the Army Guard Reserve Program, relies on her husband.

"I'm thankful every day for all that he does for our two children, Juan Jr. and Josephine, and I know I could not be a Soldier without him," she said. "I need my family's support and I know the value of it."

Quiroz' father supported her by traveling from Cuzco, Peru, her birthplace, to receive the award with her. "I am very proud of my daughter and even more so to stand next to her today," he said.

Maj. Mark Martin, a native of Wilkesburg, Pa., also received the award at the Hall of Heroes with his two daughters.

"This is great for everybody because the whole family has to make sacrifices when a Soldier heads off to war," Martin said. "I never knew how much a Soldier's absence can affect the family until I was in Iraq. This award is special because it recognizes my family's contributions, too."

Other recipients of the July 7 Welcome Home Warrior-Citizen Award include:

- Maj. Scott Barnett
- Lt. Col. Dave Calderon
- Maj. Marilyn S. Chiafullo
- Sgt. Maj. David B. Corey
- Chief Warrant Officer Michael E. Gaston
- Maj. Kenneth G. Holley
- Lt. Col. Arthur Hunt
- Lt. Col. James McKeithan
- Col. Henry Moak
- Sgt. Maj. Nelson Oquendo
- Col. Linda Plichta
- Lt. Col. Russell Shumway

• Col. Hughes Turner
"These are authentic heroes who do not serve for self gain;

they are American Soldiers who have willingly answered their nation's call," Helmly said.



Army News Service/Boujnida
Lt. Gen. James R. Helmly, commanding general of the Army Reserve, addresses Welcome Home Warrior-Citizen Award ceremony attendees, before presenting the new award to 15 Soldiers and families. Command Sgt. Maj. Michele Jones of the Army Reserve assisted with the presentation.

Kansas National Guard's life insurance increased

By Nicole Corcoran
Governor's Press Secretary

Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius gave her stamp of approval to cost-free life insurance worth \$250,000 for the state's National Guard Soldiers on active duty July 14 when she signed Senate Bill 1 into law.

"Every day, men and women from Kansas place their lives on hold to serve on active duty, and then put their lives on the line to defend our nation and our freedom. Sadly, some of these patriots do not return home," the governor said.

"No amount of money can ever replace a loved one, but by providing Kansas National Guard soldiers on active duty with cost-free life insurance, we can give their families a measure of financial security," she said.

SB 1 requires the State of Kansas, through the Adjutant General's Office, to reimburse life insurance premiums for \$250,000 for members of the Kansas National Guard called to federal active duty in a combat zone. It repeals the death benefit payments of Senate Substitute for HB 2518 and establishes a system of reimbursed premium payments by

the state beginning Sept. 1.

The bill also makes available for Tax Year 2004 the vehicle registration tax exemptions allowed for military personnel who are in the full-time military service, are absent from the state on military orders on the date of application for registration and maintain their vehicles outside of Kansas, or are mobilized or deployed on the date of application for registration.

The bill also provides a refund process through the County Treasurer's Office for previously paid taxes, if the refund application is made no later than one year from the act's effective date.

U.S. Military Academy looking for a few good liaison officers

By Jennifer Dowing
Army Public Affairs Intern

Have you ever thought about helping West Point recruit cadets? This may be your chance.

The admissions office is looking for a few good Military Academy Liaison Officers, also known as MALOs. These officers help future cadets get through the admissions process. They also serve as mentors to them when they arrive here.

"This is an opportunity to develop relationships," said Lt. Col. Dean Chang, who is the current MALO officer for New Jersey. "If someone wants to give

back to West Point, this is a good way to do it."

According to Chang, only reserve officers hold the position of a MALO; however, anyone can volunteer to help.

Maj. Shelly Jackson, the media officer for the admissions office at West Point, said there are 231 MALOs and 1,436 volunteers.

Who can volunteer? Anyone who wants to make a difference, Chang said.

"Nurturing and steering these qualified candidates is a wonderful thing," he explained.

MALOs are broken down by congressional districts and have to undergo some training, including

completing an online tutorial, shadowing a current liaison officer for roughly a year and attending the yearly MALO conference at West Point, Jackson said.

"Liaison candidates also have the opportunity to learn more about the admissions procedures, sit in on cadet classes and meet with the leadership," he added.

However, Chang said, the most rewarding parts are the relationships you develop and the benefits you give the academy.

"If you're still undecided about whether you want to help, think of this as your way to help us beat Navy," Jackson said with a smile.

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3rd Brigade Soldiers awarded Purple Hearts in Iraq

Several 3rd BCT Soldiers received Purple Hearts during a ceremony July 20 at Camp Taji, Iraq.

At right: Pvt. Derrick Hinely, an armored crewman for 1st Bn., 13th Armor, 3rd BCT, 1st Armored Div., from Gassaway W. Va., is awarded the Purple Heart Medal by Col. David Bishop, 3rd BCT commander.

Center: Soldiers, of 3rd BCT, 1st Armored Div., stand at attention during a Purple Heart Medal ceremony. The Soldiers earned the medals for being wounded in combat in Iraq.

At left: Spc. Ian Mally (left), a scout for HHC, 1st Bn., 13th Armor, 3rd BCT, 1st Armored Div., from Ventura, Calif., is congratulated by Col. David Bishop, 3rd Brigade commander, during a Purple Heart ceremony.

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War on Terrorism

Troop withdrawals could begin next year, Casey says

A "fairly substantial" withdrawal of U.S. forces from Iraq could take place next spring or summer if the insurgency doesn't grow and the country's political process continues as scheduled, the commander of coalition forces said here today.

U.S. Army Gen. George W. Casey, head of Multinational Force Iraq, spoke during a surprise visit to Iraq by Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld.

At a later joint news conference with Rumsfeld, Iraqi Prime Minister Ibrahim Jaafari said the departure of U.S. forces from his country depends on how soon Iraq can train, equip and field its own soldiers and police to take over security duties. "We do not want to be surprised," Jaafari said, if U.S. troops leave before the Iraqis are prepared to assume security.

Coalition, Iraqi forces capture insurgents, find weapons caches

Iraqi army and coalition Soldiers failed to find a known terrorist responsible for mortar attacks against Iraqi police stations during a July 26 combined cordon-and-search mission, Multinational Security Transition Command Iraq officials said.

However, multinational forces in Mosul, Iraq, said the Soldiers didn't come away empty-handed; they netted two other men who tested positive for explosive materials.

Soldiers with 2nd Battalion, 4th Brigade, 2nd Iraqi Army Division, and coalition advisers searched the premises and found various uniforms, military documents, former regime propaganda and other handwritten documents, officials said.

In the Baghdad area, Iraqi army Soldiers on patrol uncovered two separate improvised explosive device caches July 26.

Elements of the 4th Iraqi Army Division and U.S. Special Forces discovered five 107 mm rockets rigged as improvised explosive devices, two propane tanks also rigged as IEDs, one 120 mm mortar round, and various IED components along a road 30 kilometers southwest of Baiji. An Iraqi explosive ordnance disposal team cleared the site, officials reported.

Deployed Soldiers become citizens

About 170 Soldiers became United States citizens during a naturalization ceremony July 25 at Al-Faw Palace in Baghdad.

"I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America," said Spc. Kimberly L. Flowers affirming her commitment to the United States alongside 167 fellow Soldiers and Marines at the Multi-National Corps-Iraq headquarters.

"Over half of these Soldiers standing here today joined the military after Sept. 11, 2001," said Lt. Gen. John R. Vines, MNC-I commander. "They knew the risks. On behalf of a grateful nation, thank you."

The naturalization ceremony was the second for deployed Soldiers since the first was held in November 2004. Another ceremony will take place in September.

Heavy Taliban losses affect recruiting, possibly tactics

Taliban members who face off against coalition forces or the Afghan National Army are facing heavy losses, so they've resorted to recruiting young teens to join the fight, the Joint Staff's operations director told Pentagon reporters today.

Marine Lt. Gen. James Conway spoke following a July 25 incident that involved heavy fighting in a small village west of Deh Rawod in Afghanistan's Oruzgan province. The incident, which left one U.S. Soldier and an Afghan National Army Soldier dead, took a considerable toll on the enemy, the general said. Some press reports claim as many as 50 insurgents were killed, he said.

"My observation, tracking this day in and day out, is that virtually every time the Taliban come up against our regular forces or those of the Afghan National Army, they are losing pretty badly," Conway told reporters.

These continual losses are likely to affect the way these enemy forces operate, he said.

U.S. Soldiers capture terrorists seen planting roadside bomb

U.S. Soldiers captured nine terrorists July 22 after they were seen placing an improvised explosive device, military officials in Baghdad reported.

The Soldiers saw two vehicles pull to the side of a road north of Forward Operating Base Kalsu. Nine men armed with AK-47 assault rifles got out and began placing an improvised explosive device.

The Soldiers engaged the men with small arms fire and captured five wounded terrorists. Four others, one of them wounded, fled and were captured by another U.S. patrol. The wounded terrorists were taken to the 86th Combat Support Hospital in Baghdad. The remaining three are being held for questioning.

New report cites progress, challenges for Iraqi police forces

A new report on training of police forces in Iraq shows steady progress but identifies areas that need improvement, including the process used to vet members into the force, Larry Di Rita, the Defense Department's spokesman, told reporters July 26.

The report cites successes in the programs, noting that Iraqi police performed well during the January elections and are increasingly visible on Iraq's streets, Di Rita told reporters. In addition, he said, polls also indicate growing public respect for and confidence in the police force.

So far, 93,800 Ministry of Interior forces are trained and equipped, including 63,500 Iraqi police. Ultimately, the Iraqi police force is expected to grow to 135,000, the report said.

Editor's note: These news items were compiled from the Department of Defense's American Forces Press Service and Army News Service.

Soldier spends spare time drawing

By David Kerr

70th Engineer Battalion

TAJI, Iraq — The military at war presents challenges to all who serve — the challenge to stay fit in the long hours of duty, the challenge to remain calm in the most heated of situations and the challenge to pursue one's hopes and dreams using what little free time a Soldier can muster.

Serving at Camp Taji, Iraq, for the second time in three years, Staff Sgt. Trinidad Gutierrez finds time in his busy schedule to pursue his goals and further his talent.

He is an illustrator, and he spends his off-duty hours sketching characters and scenes from his expansive imagination.

Using every free moment, including his brief lunch periods and his hours of free time at night, he entertains no notion of swimming or watching movies. There is work to be done, and he will finish.

It started back when little Gutierrez was a child. He pestered his father repeatedly, with the help of his brother and sister, to draw anything they knew their father could bring to life on paper. It was the day that Trinidad was told to sit down and draw for himself that changed everything. That's when the art bug bit him.

Gutierrez initially was dissatisfied with the poor quality of his drawings, but with his father's help and encouragement, he quickly progressed to "scale-drawing" characters in comic books, mostly enlarging them for his own collection.

For no other conceivable reason than adolescence, he abruptly stopped pursuing his talent when he was in high school.

It wasn't until he met a woman that the art bug bit him again.

While dating the woman destined to become his wife, Gutierrez saw drawings another man had made for her. Not happy with what he saw, and perhaps a little jealous, he told her he could do much better.

When Heidi saw what he was capable of, she was astounded and started pushing him as his father had done so many years before. She bought him his first art table and gave him a studio room in the house they bought together. It is his private room, free of distraction, so he can draw in peace.

His son, Ryan, has been supportive of his father as well, asking him to draw for him, being present during his father's art sessions and even pushing him to finish projects, just so he can see.

His son shows artistic talent that Gutierrez pushes along and tries to develop, taking after his own father.

This penciler, who calls his style "realistic American," dreams of having his artwork support the family and be a driving force to their comfort when they finally are able to settle down in the Tacoma, Wash., area.

Fully intending to retire from the military, he is using his time in the service to further develop his skill and continue building his portfolio.

While his art is beautiful and dramatic, he knows the time it takes him to create one page of frames is not within the industry standard. With his continued practice and current projects, he is slowly coming closer to the standard he seeks.

He credits the military and his previous specialty, Military Graphic Illustrator, as furthering his ability and making his dreams possible.

"I'm always going to have my artwork," the supply specialist said, "and I'm always going to be asked to draw stuff, whether it be for the military or for people in the military or whatever else."



Courtesy photo

Staff Sgt. Trinidad Gutierrez sketches various scenes and characters from his imagination.

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Courtesy photo

Staff Sgt. Trinidad Gutierrez, 70th Eng. Bn., spends his off-duty hours drawing while deployed to Camp Taji in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

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Post/Blackmon
Spc. Daniel Nidy (left) and Spc. Chris Guntz (right) help remove casualty Spc. Richard McNulty (center) from danger during the MPs training operations July 21.

MPs continued from page 1

what needed to be improved for the next go-round.

"On the movement, most of the way around the MSRs was pretty good; convoy distance was good. We kept communication between all the trucks. There was a little confusion on the site; first time at the site. Got it worked out," Sgt. Charles Sisson of the 1st Squad, 3rd Plt said.

"You all lined up against one wall. You need to keep going into the room. Talk. Communicate out there. Learn the ballistics of your weapons system," said platoon sergeant Sgt. 1st Class Arthur Curtiss to the squad. "You did good. The only thing is you're bunching up."

MOUT training has been a recent training focus of Fort Riley Soldiers, including MPs. This cordon and search lane is one of the MPs' missions to prepare for possible deployments, Jones said.

"It's so the Soldiers are proficiently trained on it and the leaders are trained on it. This gives them rehearsal time to know what they're going to do and actions on the objective to accomplish the mission."

Training before the possibility of deploying helps build confidence and prepare the Soldiers for what they could face overseas, Hafford said.

"It helps a lot because there's a lot of times we'll be doing this

exact thing - whether we're in the field or whether we're deployed," Hafford said. "It's probably the best training we do."

This training also allows the MPs to learn from their mistakes, practice different techniques and learn to work as a team, said Curtiss.

"They have to know what each other is doing. So the more practice you have, the more you don't have to think about what you're doing, it's just instinctive and reactive," he said. "When you go over there and the bullets are flying, smoke's going, you don't have a lot of time to think, you just have to react."



Post/Blackmon
Soldiers of the 1st Squad, 3rd Plt., 977th MP Co., practice their room clearing techniques on the prairie before training with actual buildings.



Post/Blackmon
Staff Sgt. Scott Newcomer radios his commander for orders following the MPs MOUT training July 21.